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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 TRSE-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CIEP-01 /095 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 001
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONGEN ISTANBUL
AMCONGEN IZMIR
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5555

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SPOP, PFOR, CY, TU
SUBJECT: LITTLE EVIDENCE OF TURKISH MIGRATION TO THE
NORTHERN SECTOR OF CYPRUS

REF: (A) NICOSIA 2213; (B) ANKARA 2956 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME TURKISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE THE POPULATION OF THE TURKISH SECTOR OF CYPRUS TO SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 200,000 AND 250,000 AS A LONG-RANGE GOAL. VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF EMB HAVE ALSO HEARD OF PROJECTED PLANS TO SEND SOME 40,000 MIGRANTS TO CYPRUS IN THE SHORT TERM. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY EVIDENCE OF MIGRATION OF SIZEABLE NUMBER OF TURKS TO NORTHERN SECTOR. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR SOME TIME TO
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SECURE EVIDENCE CONCERNING THE MIGRATION OF TURKS TO NORTHERN

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SECTOR OF CYPRUS. VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF EMB HAVE BEEN WATCHING FOR MIGRATION OF TURKS, AND ONLY LITTLE ODD BITS OF INFORMATION HAVE BEEN PICKED UP. FOR EXAMPLE, WE KNOW THAT BOTH AIR AND SEA ROUTES TO CYPRUS ARE RELATIVELY FULL BOTH WAYS AND THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF TURKS ARE BEGINNING TO SPEND HOLIDAYS IN NORTHERN SECTOR. SOME 150 HOTEL, RESTAURANT, AND RECREATION WORKERS HAVE GONE TO CYPRUS, AS HAVE A RELATIVE HANDFUL OF TURKISH CIVIL SERVANTS. SOME TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAVE COME TO TURKEY FOR TRAINING.

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF CYPRUS ECONOMIC MATTERS TOLD EMB ON JULY 17 THAT ONLY 3,000 MAINLAND TURKS (MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN) HAVE MIGRATED TO CYPRUS DURING THE PAST YEAR. DATA ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE IN MERSIN OF FEDERATED TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE (FTCS) WHICH ISSUES THE REQUIRED PAPERS. MFA OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS NO CONCERTED CAMPAIGN OF ANY KIND TO GET MAINLAND TURKS TO GO TO CYPRUS; THOSE WHO WERE INTERESTED WENT TO MERSIN ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE. SOME MAY GO TO CYPRUS, TAKE A LOOK, AND DECIDE AGAINST LIVING THERE. CURRENT TURKISH GOVERNMENT BUDGETARY SUPPORT, DEVOTED SOLELY TO INVESTMENTS IN FTCS, OFFICIAL STATED, AMOUNTED TO TL 400 MILLION (CA $28 MILLION).

3. SOURCES AT TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S EMPLOYMENT AGENCY UNEQUIVOCALLY DENY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PERMANENT MIGRATIONS OF TURKISH WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO CYPRUS; LARGE NUMBERS COULD NOT BE SENT EXCEPT THROUGH THIS GOT EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OR THE COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN INTEREST IN CYPRUS.

4. GOVERNMENT'S INTERMINISTERIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR CYPRUS, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, IS NOT VERY ACTIVE. ITS HEAD, AMBASSADOR ZIYA MUEZZINOGLU, HAS TAKEN LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE COMMITTEE TO RUN FOR THE TURKISH SENATE AS A CANDIDATE ON THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) TICKET (REFTEL B). DEMIREL GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY HAS LEFT THE COMMITTEE WITHOUT ANY BASIC INSTRUCTIONS; IT APPEARS THAT LITTLE MORE THAN ROUTINE BUSINESS IS TAKING PLACE.

4. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT SOME TURK CYPRIOTS (OR TURKS BORN IN CYPRUS) WHO WERE PERMANENTLY IN TURKEY MAY HAVE GONE BACK
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TO THE ISLAND. WE HAVE HAND INCIDENTAL REPORTS FROM TURK CYPRIOT WHO WENT THERE AND THEN RETURNED TO TURKEY BECAUSE OF LACK OF JOBS. THERE ARE OTHER REPORTS TO EFFECT THAT A NUMBER OF TURK CYPRIOTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD MAY HAVE RETURNED TO NORTHERN SECTOR. AS LAST YEAR THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN THE CUKUROVA MAY HAVE SENT SOME AGRICULTURAL FIELD WORKERS TO THE NORTHERN SECTOR ON TEMPORARY WORK PERMITS. WE HAVE HEARD ONE REPORT THAT SOME 10,000 (FROM 900 TO 3,000 LAST YEAR)

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MAY HAVE GONE TO THE ISLAND, BUT WE FEEL THAT THIS FIGURE IS CONSIDERABLY EXAGGERATED.

5. ACCORDINGLY, WE QUESTION WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A SIZEABLE MIGRATION OF MAINLAND TURKS TO NORTHERN SECTOR OF CYPRUS AS PERMANENT SETTLERS. VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT ANY MASS MIGRATION COULD BE CONCEALED FROM TURKISH PUBLIC AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEDIA. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ORGANIZE ANY SIZEABLE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS FOR CYPRUS WITHOUT ITS BECOMING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. MACOMBER

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